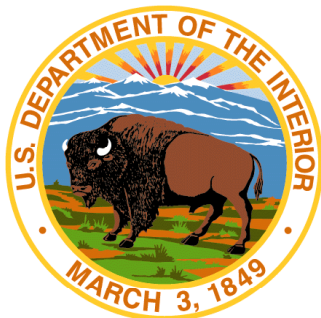


## CNG School Buses: Alternative Fuel Vehicles Provided by National Park Service to Transport Schoolchildren



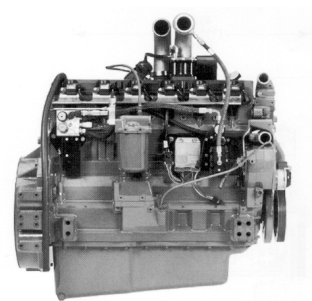
### **National Park Service Expands Alternative Fuels Fleet**

If you're among the millions visiting national parks in the U.S. during the next few years, you'll be breathing a little easier because a growing number of vehicles serving the parks will not be powered by gasoline or diesel fuel. The national parks are adding more vehicles using alternative fuels as part of a federal program to reduce vehicle pollution in those treasured environments.

The program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and the National Park Service (NPS). The objective is to demonstrate how using alternative fuel vehicles (AFV) can improve the environment, while allowing the vehicles to perform efficiently and cost-effectively.

### **About the CNG School Buses**

Two of the "cleaner air" vehicles are school buses using compressed natural gas (CNG). They are being provided to transport schoolchildren on the San Felipe and Laguna Pueblos in New Mexico. This service is part of a partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and the General Services Administration. The buses are manufactured by the Blue Bird Corporation and have CNG engines made by John Deere. An appliance called a FuelMaker is used to locally refuel the buses.



*Two buses like this one, powered by CNG engines (above, right) using compressed natural gas, are being provided by the National Park Service to transport schoolchildren who live in two Pueblo communities, San Felipe and Laguna. The CNG dispenser (right) is used to refuel the buses.*



## ***The What & Why of Alternative Fuels***

Alternative vehicle fuels include electricity, ethanol, methanol, natural gas, propane, and biodiesel. These fuels are currently powering a variety of commercial, personal, and government vehicles, including heavy-duty long-haul trucks, garbage packers and dump trucks, snow plows, package delivery vans, buses, taxicabs, and passenger cars.

Government agencies and many companies are in partnerships to expand the use of alternative fuels in vehicles. They share the national concern for the environment and recognize the need to reduce the nation's dependence on petroleum from foreign sources. The transportation sector currently accounts for approximately two-thirds of all U.S. petroleum use and roughly one-fourth of the total U.S. energy consumption.

## ***Visit the "clean air" partners***

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE),  
<http://www.doe.gov/>

DOE's Office of Transportation Technologies,  
<http://www.ott.doe.gov/>

DOE's Alternative Fuels Data Center, <http://www.afdc.doe.gov/>

U.S. Department of the Interior,  
<http://www.doi.gov/>

National Park Service,  
<http://www.nps.gov/>

For additional information about the alternative fuel vehicles used for Pueblo school children, contact: Patty Cotterell, 505-346-6576.

For information about alternative fuels, contact Helen Latham at Battelle, 614-424-4062 or [lathamh@battelle.org](mailto:lathamh@battelle.org).

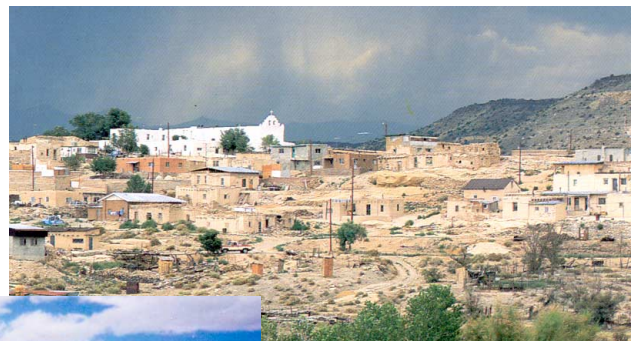
## **Other AFV Locations**

Alternative fuels are now being used in nearly 600 light-duty and transit vehicles in national parks and facilities nationwide. In addition to compressed natural gas (CNG), the alternative fuels powering these vehicles include electricity, ethanol, methanol, propane, and biodiesel. The first alternative fuel vehicle in this program – a CNG-powered trash packer – began service in December 1997 at the National Capital Parks' Central District in Washington, D.C.

Here are examples of other parks and facilities participating in this federal program where you can see a heavy- or medium-sized alternative fuel vehicle at work or have the opportunity to ride in one.

<b>Park/Facility Location</b>	<b>Fuel</b>	<b>Vehicle Type</b>
Grand Canyon National Park, AZ	CNG	Dump Trucks
Redwood National & State Parks, CA	Electric	Tow Vehicle
Cumberland Island National Seashore, GA	Electric	Tram Engine
Gateway Natl. Recreation Area, NY	Electric	Tram Engine
Zion National Park, UT	Electric	Tram Engines
LBJ National Historic Park, TX	Electric	Bus
George Washington National Parkway	CNG	Maintenance truck

Before the new or re-powered alternative fuel vehicles can be used, park facilities may need to be modified, such as by installing fuel storage facilities and dispensing equipment. People who refuel, repair, or drive the vehicles may need to be trained in using the new fuels. Information is collected to judge the performance of the vehicles, cost-effectiveness, and emission reductions.



*CNG-powered school buses are transporting schoolchildren on the San Felipe (left) and Laguna (right) Pueblos in New Mexico.*